



Statement by Ambassador Barbara Žvokelj,  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the International Organisations in Vienna,  
at the sixty-third session of the Legal Sub-Committee  
of the United Nations Committee of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space  
Vienna, 23 April 2024

*Thank you Mr Chairperson.*

*I apologise for giving a general statement this late in the meeting however, I would like to inform you about an important development for my country related to our topic these days.*

*Excellences, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

In addition to what has been said on behalf of the EU, I would like to make several remarks in my national capacity.

*Mr Chairperson,*

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Spain on its chairpersonship of the Subcommittee and express our full support to the work of UNOOSA Director Aarti Holla-Maini.

Slovenia reaffirms its steadfast support for the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)

and its Subcommittees as well as working groups. As a member of COPUOS, Slovenia recognizes the critical role of these bodies in developing international norms, guidelines, and principles governing space activities. Through active participation and constructive engagement, Slovenia remains committed to advancing the rule of law in outer space and promoting peaceful cooperation among nations, as well as to advancing space exploration, innovation and cooperation.

I am proud to inform that just last Friday, 19 April, Slovenia became 39<sup>th</sup> country to sign the Artemis Accords thus reaffirming our dedication to the peaceful exploration and sustainable use of outer space for the benefit of all humanity. State Secretary of the Ministry of the Economy, Tourism, and Sport Matevž Frangež at this opportunity stated that even though Slovenia is a small country on Earth it aspires to be big in Space.

With the presence of NASA astronaut of Slovenian descent Randy Bresnik at the signing that took place at Slovenian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovenia is ready to participate, together with our space industry, in further endeavours for peaceful and regulated exploration and utilisation of space and space resources.

In conclusion, Slovenia looks forward to working closely with its international partners to realize the shared goals and aspirations. Together, we can unlock the boundless potential of outer space for the benefit of present and future generations.

*Thank you.*